

Embassy  
of the  
Argentine Republic

AL 062  
file 15

2. cc. Charge  
Y. Thayer  
✓ M. Schneider  
3. C. Sec. 14A  
Anti-Semitism  
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Statement included in the News Bulletin No.183, May 20, 1977, of the  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Argentina

NATIONAL UNITY

"When national unity was finally achieved, Argentina's founding fathers proclaimed in the preamble of the Constitution, among other objectives, those of "strengthening justice, consolidating internal peace and securing the benefits of freedom", not only for ourselves and for our posterity, but for all men of this earth who wish to dwell on this land.

Representatives of all races that spoke all tongues, those who came from every corner of the earth and believers of all religions, were invited to participate in the great common enterprise of building a country.

They were all granted the same rights, the same guarantees and the same duties enjoyed by the native population. National unity was not achieved to create privileges, nor to establish subordination or differences in favor or against anybody, nor to attribute merits or responsibilities that are not the direct consequence of the conduct of each individual. According to article 16, "the Argentine nation admits no blood or birth prerogatives" and "all its inhabitants are equal before the law". This was reaffirmed in article 20 particularly regarding foreigners who reside in our country to whom the right to obtain citizenship is given with extraordinary freedom. The naturalized Argentines were from then on able to apply to the highest public posts, with the only exception of the Presidency of the Republic, for which it is also required to belong to the Catholic faith.

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)  
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS  
Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

(X) Release ( ) Excise ( ) Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: ( ) In Part ( ) In Full

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Date Declassify on Reason

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Different communities have settled among us, protected by this generous law. Its members shortly became closely mingled with the rest of the nation in a fruitful relationship. The great majority of the present natives are sons or grandsons of immigrants that settled in the dessert, sowed our fields, built our industries, promoted trade and cultivated literature, the arts and sciences.

Such historical precedents should be remembered today more than ever when a campaign directed against the Hebrew Community, inferred on the grounds that some of its members are involved in scandals and dealings, in-which those belonging to other religious beliefs or social groups are also involved. At present, no penal code or moral rule may segregate or disqualify anybody on the basis of race or religion without offending the truth and justice as stated in the Universal Declaration on Human Rights of Man, approved by the General Assembly of the United Nations. Even if contemporary states of totalitarian inspiration in their deeds, incur in transgressions that violate said solemn agreement, only Nazism dared to formulate its monstrous racist conception into laws that seeked to exterminate the Jewish people.

Israeli thinkers and artists enriched our culture and "The Jewish Gauchos" gathered in prosperous communities in the Mesopotamia region. They provided legislators and ambassadors that enlightened our politics with their talent and patriotism. In our society one can find traditional family names that allow

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us to trace their Sephardic origin, carried with honor by warriors and national heroes of our independence, and of civil and foreign wars. They have all contributed to the progress and wealth of our country.

It would be unconceivable, therefore, to try to instill prejudices and hates against a community, based on the errors of some of its members. Hence a statement made by the Minister of Interior as an expression of respect to the Constitution, voicing the understandable uneasiness experienced by qualified representatives of the Hebrew Community. He pointed out "the difference existing between those responsible for incriminating acts and the social and religious groups to which they belong". To deviate from this elemental rule of coexistence would mean to attempt against the national unity."